

Remarks

Please reconsider this application in view of the amended claims. No claims have been added and 3 claims have been cancelled. Claims 1-14, 17-25 and 27 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to improve readability and clarity of the claims, not to overcome any of the Examiner's rejections.

More importantly, the differentiating elements of the amended claims are found in the claims as originally filed.

Summary of Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Office Action states that Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pagé et al. (hereinafter Pagé), U.S. patent 5,329,619. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims as amended are overcome for reasons given herein.

The combined references do not teach all claim limitations of the independent claims.

1. Established Principle: All claim limitations must be taught.

Case law requires that to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art."¹ On this ground alone the cited reference is deficient. This is because at least two features are not taught. Specifically, Pagé does not disclose or suggest multiple service providers associated with a single transaction. Further, Pagé does not disclose or suggest networked objects.

¹ *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974) as cited at MPEP 2143.03.

a. **Pagé does not disclose or suggest multiple service providers associated with a single transaction.**

The independent claims in this application require that a single transaction have a plurality of associated service providers. This is clear from the claim language itself². The Pagé reference does not disclose or suggest multiple service providers associated with a single transaction. Rather, Pagé merely describes a client-server model (col. 1, lines 48-54) with a one-to-one relationship between the client and the server. In other words, there is no mention of a single transaction fulfilled by multiple service providers. In fact, Pagé does not even mention "service providers." On this ground alone the independent claims should be allowed. It follows that the dependent claims should also be allowed because they depend on an allowable base claim.

b. **Pagé also does not teach the use of networked objects.**

Additionally, each independent claim in this application requires the use of networked objects. There is no mention of "networked objects" in Pagé.

Accordingly, Pagé teaches neither of the above claim features and, as all the elements of the claims are not taught, the claims must be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been addressed and that all the claims are now in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-7559, if a telephone call will help resolve any remaining issues.

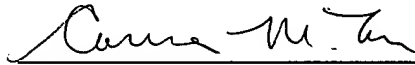
² Claims 1, 7, 11, 18 and 24 refer to "a plurality of service providers."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP's deposit account no. 50-0310.

A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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